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# HOUSING NEWS

...Keeping housing issues in the forefront...

## FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Let's start with the good news. The state of Missouri received over \$17.8 million through the various Continuums of Care for programs to provide housing and services to those experiencing homelessness. The Balance of State Continuum of Care, whose process DMH has helped establish over the last five years, received funding (\$2,788,311) for seven new projects, including five permanent housing projects for those with disabilities. They are:

Family Counseling Center, Kennett	\$674,566	PH*
Department of Mental Health, Rolla	\$325,680	PH
Missouri Valley Community Action, Marshall	\$554,488	PH
Ozark Center, Inc., Barton & McDonald counties	\$249,373	PH
Praise Keepers, Tipton	\$318,049	PH
Johnson County HELP, Warrensburg	\$321,879	TH**
Pettis County Community Partnership, Sedalia	\$344,276	TH
Church Army, Inc. (renewal), Branson	\$227,500	TH

\*PH – Permanent Housing

\*\*TH – Transitional Housing

In addition, ten other new permanent housing projects were funded through the other Continuums of Care in the state: one each in St. Charles, Boone County, Springfield, Clay & Platte Counties, St. Joseph, two in St. Louis County and three for the Kansas City/Independence/Lee's Summit Continuums.

And the process continues. These projects are all awaiting their contracts from HUD and the rest of us are working on this year's proposals so we can work to have another successful year of funding to continue the work of ending homelessness for all Missourians.



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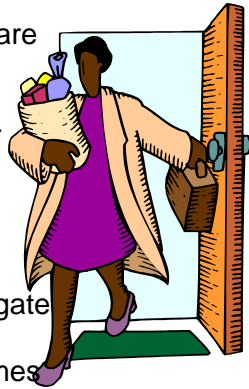
## HOT OFF THE PRESS

### **New Missouri Housing Assistance Booklet in Press** by Ron Berg

Now more than ever, many Missourians who experience disabilities are actively pursuing home ownership or other housing options in their communities. Furthermore, an increasing number of persons residing in institutions and congregate residential settings are also opting to seek homes of their own. Historically, a major barrier has been the limited availability of safe, accessible, affordable housing and other programs and supports to assist persons in successfully attaining and managing their home. Presently there are many new and innovative, as well as expanded existing housing programs at the federal, state, and local level that has enhanced opportunities for persons with disabilities to obtain their own homes.

A housing manual, titled "Missouri's Guide to Housing Assistance Programs", has recently been drafted through a partnership effort including self-advocates, MO Personal Independence Commission (PIC) members, MO Department of Mental Health, MO

Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services, MO Governor's Council on Disabilities, Missouri



Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, MO Assistive Technology, Centers for Independent Living, and other entities. Karia Basta, Department of Mental Health

Housing Director and Chair of the committee to develop the housing guide, states "I see this as the first step in our ongoing efforts to inform and educate people about housing choices".

This product resulted from a special project through the PIC recommendations on informed choice about home and community based resources and options for persons who transition from institutions. The housing guide shall serve as a companion manual to the "Missouri's Guide to Home and Community Based Services", an excellent supports and services resource distributed state



wide in 2003 to assist persons who are elderly and/or disabled to live independently in their homes and communities. Although both guide booklets contain comprehensive descriptions and contact information for housing and supports resources across the State, each is arranged in a user-friendly format to facilitate easy access to this vast amount of important information.

The housing guide includes valuable information about eligibility and how to apply for the various housing programs, agency listings and contacts, and a useful glossary of housing terms. Housing programs described in the booklet relate to rental assistance, home

purchasing, home repair/weatherization assistance, home access modifications, and information on the Missouri Property Tax Credit.

Edward Kniest, Program Development Specialist for the Division of Medical Services, and a member of the housing booklet committee, comments "it is

another example of the recent efforts of various agencies to pool their resources and work together to develop a beneficial tool for the citizens of the State."

The housing guide is expected to be ready for distribution across the State by early 2005. It will be available in printed form, including a large print format. Distribution sites include, but are not limited to, community libraries, Community Action Agencies, Regional Advisory Councils for Developmental Disabilities, DMH MR/DD Regional Centers, and Centers for Independent Living. The booklet will also be placed on compact disc, and it can be accessed through the web on such sites as the Missouri Governor's Council on Disability.

For further information about Missouri's Guide to Housing Assistance Programs, please contact Karia Basta at [Karia.Basta@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:Karia.Basta@dmh.mo.gov), or you can call Karia at (573) 751-9206.



## HOUSING WEBSITE UPDATED



We've heard from our friends that we're a little hard to find on the Web, but once you do, we want you to know it's worth it. When you're on the DMH web site, we're under Special Topics at <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/ada/housing/housingindex.htm>. If you enter through the Special Topics page, scroll down the page until you get to Housing. Information on Shelter Plus Care, Continuum of Care, funding sources, previous newsletters, staff contact information, it's all there including the new Housing Guide. Please ask us questions and let us know what you would like to see included on this page. Write us at [housingnews@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:housingnews@dmh.mo.gov).

## TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

(HUD) announced the availability of approximately 1 billion dollars for the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grants to fund programs for fiscal year 2006. This notice was in the Federal Register March 21, 2005.

During the last several years the State of Missouri Continuum of Care Plan for Non-Metropolitan and Rural Areas has received millions of dollars in grant assistance, and we hope to continue our efforts in order to eradicate homelessness in Missouri.

If your organization is interested in applying for project funds to serve the homeless and persons with disabilities in the Non-Metropolitan areas in Rural Missouri, **please plan on attending the training being held in Jefferson City, Thursday, April 14, 2005.** Proposals will be due on Friday, May 27, 2005, to the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness for review and ranking for final submission to HUD by June 10, 2005.

For more information about this training, please contact Karia Basta at (573) 751-9206 or Liz Hagar-Mace at 353-9113. The full notice of HUD's funding is available at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).



## APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

What does Fair Housing mean? It means there is federal law that ensures that every person, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or familial status (the presence of children under 18) can obtain the housing of their choice. What's more, the Fair Housing Act promotes the establishment of safe and secure communities where everyone, regardless of nationality, can live free from discrimination.

Ways in which someone might experience discrimination, for example, is if you are trying to rent and any of the following occurs:

- Refuses to rent or sell you housing
- Refuses to negotiate for housing
- Makes housing unavailable
- Denies you a dwelling
- Sets different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling
- Falsely denies that housing is available for

inspection, sale, or rental

- Only shows apartments or houses in a certain neighborhood based on the person's race, or national origin, etc. This is called "steering".



If you think you are or have experienced discrimination with your housing situation, contact the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity regional office. For Missouri that contact information is as follows:

Kansas City Regional Office of FHEO  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Gateway Tower II  
400 State Avenue, Room 200  
Kansas City, KS 66101-2406  
(913) 551-6958  
1-800-743-5323  
TTY (913) 551-6972



## FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT . . . DID YOU HEAR?

The VA-HUD subcommittee has been eliminated. In the House of Representatives, HUD programs now fall into the jurisdiction of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Justice Committee chaired by Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-MI). The top Democrat of the House panel is Rep. John Oliver of Massachusetts.

In the U.S. Senate, HUD programs have also been shifted to a new Transportation, Treasury, Housing and the Judiciary Subcommittee. This subcommittee will be headed by longtime VA-HUD Subcommittee Chair Christopher Bond (R-MO), providing some oversight continuity for HUD programs. Washington Sen. Patty Murray will be the top Democrat on the Transportation subcommittee.



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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT

<http://www.dmh.mo.gov/ada/housing/housingindex.htm>